

I am the Managing Partner of a Music Row lawfirm and have been an advocate for copyright and artist's rights for decades.

I represent hundreds of songwriters, vocalists and musicians who all play locally, nationally and internationally. They range from local unknowns to huge celebrities.

All of my clients rely on radio exposure, especially in Country Music, to help them promote their products and services. Radio, however, cowtows to the record labels who pay them for air space through promotions and special perks.

Local programming should be responsive to the community needs.

All decisions should be made at the local level or they will not accurately reflect the personality and needs of the local market.

Local programming should be what the community wants whether it's high school football, local happenings, charity needs, etc.

An FCC license is a privilege not a right and to sustain that privilege, you should have to "give back" and be accountable to the community in which you have that privilege. How that takes effect is up to the station, but it should be part of their license review.

Payola lives and breathes bigger and deeper than ever before. It's just hiding as something else called t-shirts, tickets, promotions, contests, junkets. It has closed radio to anyone not willing to make the payment.

Today, middlemen (indie promoters) are being asked to contribute 1000 t-shirts for a radio event (at the label's cost). The Label stays neutral and the radio station stays neutral and these middlemen are being put in the impossible position of having to do this to get their job done. They have become payola brokers rather than indie promoters. Some labels will give away tickets or a concert for a superstar artist being sponsored by that radio station for adds on a lesser known artist. So, label promoters are becoming brokers for adds leveraging the successful artists to help the new ones. This is part of the entire promotion team policy.

My direct experience lies with representing artists, songwriters and label executives, as well as radio personnel, and is attorney/client privileged information, but it exists and I hear about it daily.

Voice tracking is fraud. If it's live fine, if not, say so.

National playlists stink. Allow the local stations to play what their listeners want to hear. Labels do intensive research to find out what people like, and just let radio play it. Why is it limited to 30-40 songs? Play everything that is desirable, not the same 3-40 songs over and over again.

Thank you.

